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**NEWS
RELEASE**

08/01/2026

31st and 32nd Traffic Fatality

Date: 08-01-2026 **Time:** 01:42 AM

Location: I-10 East Mile marker 22, El Paso, Texas

Unit #1: 2014 Hyundai Accent

Driver: 27-year-old Michael Isaiah Sepulveda, East El Paso, TX resident.
(Deceased)

Unit #2: 2021 Mazda 3

Driver: 31-year-old Omar Rene Botello, East El Paso, TX resident. **(Deceased)**

EL PASO, Texas - The El Paso Police Department responded to a two-vehicle crash on I-10 east near Cobia early Saturday morning. The Special Traffic Investigations Unit was called out to take over the investigation. The preliminary information indicates that the white Hyundai was traveling east on I-10 in the left lane when it veered right, crossing all lanes into the emergency shoulder. The vehicle continued eastbound at a high rate of speed in the shoulder until it struck the rear of the 2021 Mazda 3. At the time of the crash, the 2021 Mazda was stopped on the shoulder with Mr. Botello attempting to change a tire. Mr. Botello died at the scene. Mr. Sepulveda was transported to a local hospital, where he later died from his injuries. This is the 31st and 32nd traffic fatalities compared to 34 at this same time last year. Speed and Alcohol may be contributing factors in this collision.

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Good Governance
Leadership that is responsive + reliable

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